

operating the local device as a client device to said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said local device.

2. (Amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein said providing configuration services comprises:

- determining a first network address;
- assigning a second network address;
- assigning a network name;
- correlating said first network address, said second network address, and said network name; and
- recording said correlated first network address, said correlated second network address and said correlated network name in a table.

3. (As Filed) The method defined in claim 2, wherein said first network address comprises a media access control (MAC) address.

4. (As Filed) The method defined in claim 2, wherein said second network address comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

5. (As Filed) The method defined in claim 2, wherein assigning said network name comprises:

- detecting a network name conflict;
- resolving said network name conflict; and

recording a code in said table to indicate said network name conflict.

6. (Amended) The method defined in claim 2, wherein said network name is suggested by said local device.

C3 7. (Twice Amended) The method defined in claim 1, wherein said predetermined period of time is varied.

Q4 12. (Three Times Amended) A method comprising:
assigning an address to a local device on said network;
assigning a network name to said local device;
supplying user and group information across said network; and
determining service capability of said local device including whether said local device is capable of providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network;
providing configuration services to one or more devices of said network if configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than said local device; and
operating as a client device to receive configuration services from a remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said local device.

13. (Amended) The method defined in claim 12, wherein supplying user and group information comprises:

detecting when said local device is connected to said network;
sending a first user and group list to said local device in response to said local device connecting to said network;
said local device comparing said first user and group list with a second user and group list resident on said local device; and
said local device determining whether said first user and group list or said second user and group list is more recent;
receiving a more recent user and group list from said local device;
updating said user and group information to reflect said more recent user and group list; and
propagating said updated user and group information throughout said network.

14. (As Filed) The method defined in claim 13, wherein a time-stamp is used to determine whether said first user and group list or said second user and group list is more recent.

15. (As Filed) The method defined in claim 13, wherein updating said user and group information comprises recording said more recent user and group list in clear text.

16. (As Filed) The method defined in claim 15, wherein updating said user and group information comprises encrypting said user and group information prior to transmission across said network.

17. (As Filed) The method defined in claim 12, further comprising:
correlating said network address and said network name; and
storing said correlated network address and said correlated network name in a
table.

18. (Amended) The method defined claim 12, wherein said network name is
suggested by said local device.

19. (As Filed) The method defined in claim 12, wherein HyperText Transfer
Protocol (HTTP) is used to exchange information.

20. (As Filed) The method defined in claim 12, wherein Service Location
Protocol (SLP) is used to exchange information.

21. (Twice Amended) A network comprising:
a first device coupled to said network, said first device configured to
request a first network address;
receive a first network address from a second device coupled to said
network;
provide a network configuration services if said first network address is
not received from said second device;

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determine its priority level on said network if said first network address is received from said second device;

provide said network configuration services if said priority level is higher than a second priority level of said second device; and

operate as a client device to receive configuration services from said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said device.

22. (As Filed) The network defined in claim 21, wherein said first device is a networked office appliance.

23. (As Filed) The network defined in claim 21, wherein the first device is further configured to automatically:

assign a second network address;

assign a network name;

correlate said second network address with said network name; and

record said correlated second network address and said correlated network name in a table.

24. (As Filed) The network defined in claim 23, wherein said table further comprises:

a Media Access Control (MAC) address; and

a code to indicate a conflict with said network name.

25. (As Filed) The network defined in claim 23, wherein said first and second network addresses comprise Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

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26. (Twice Amended) A network comprising:

a first device configured to

assign an address to a second device on said network;

assign a network name to said second device on said network;

supply user and group information across said network; and

determine service capability of said second device on said network,

wherein if said first device is capable of providing configuration services to said network;

provide configuration services to one or more devices of said network if configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than said device; and

operate as a client device to receive configuration services from said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said device.

27. (As Filed) The network defined in claim 26, wherein said user and group information comprises:

a list comprising

a user name;

a password;

a group name having a second list of members allowed access to said group;
a time stamp; and
a character encoding code.

28. (As Filed) The network defined in claim 27, wherein said password is recorded in clear text.

Please add the following new claims:

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29. (New) An apparatus comprising:
means for requesting, with a local device, configuration services from a remote device coupled to the network in response to connecting the local device to the network;
means for providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if the response to said configuration information request is not received by the local device from said remote device within a predetermined period of time;
means for providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network if said local device has a higher priority than said remote device; and
means for operating the local device as a client device to said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said local device.

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30. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 31, wherein said means for providing configuration services comprises:

means for determining a first network address;
means for assigning a second network address;
means for assigning a network name;
means for correlating said first network address, said second network address, and
said network name; and
means for recording said correlated first network address, said correlated second
network address and said correlated network name in a table.

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31. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 30, wherein said first network
address comprises a media access control (MAC) address.

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32. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 30, wherein said second network
address comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

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33. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 30, wherein the means for
assigning said network name comprises:

means for detecting a network name conflict;
means for resolving said network name conflict; and
means for recording a code in said table to indicate said network name conflict.

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34. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 30, wherein said network name is
suggested by said local device.

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35. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 29³¹, wherein said predetermined period of time is varied.

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36. (New) An apparatus comprising:
means for assigning an address to a local device on said network;
means for assigning a network name to said local device;
means for supplying user and group information across said network; and
means for determining service capability of said local device including whether said local device is capable of providing configuration services to one or more remote devices of said network;

means for providing configuration services to one or more devices of said network if configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than said local device; and

means for operating as a client device to receive configuration services from a remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said local device.

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37. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 36³⁸, wherein the means for supplying user and group information comprises:

means for detecting when said local device is connected to said network;

means for sending a first user and group list to said local device in response to said local device connecting to said network;

means for said local device comparing said first user and group list with a second user and group list resident on said local device; and

means for said local device determining whether said first user and group list or said second user and group list is more recent;

means for receiving a more recent user and group list from said local device;

means for updating said user and group information to reflect said more recent user and group list; and

means for propagating said updated user and group information throughout said network.

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~~38.~~ (New) The apparatus defined in claim ³⁹~~37~~, wherein a time-stamp is used to determine whether said first user and group list or said second user and group list is more recent.

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~~39.~~ (New) The apparatus defined in claim ³⁹~~37~~, wherein means for updating said user and group information comprises means for recording said more recent user and group list in clear text.

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~~40.~~ (New) The apparatus defined in claim ⁴¹~~39~~, wherein means for updating said user and group information comprises means for encrypting said user and group information prior to transmission across said network.

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~~41.~~ (New) The apparatus defined in claim ³⁸~~36~~, further comprising:
means for correlating said network address and said network name; and